**News item captioned "Man-Animal Turns Tuskers Rogue"**

43. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated January 23, 1997, captioned Man-animal turns tuskers rogue;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the fact that elephants who turned marauders were stifled out of their abode and their traditional migratory routes, have been killed with the help of professional hunters;

(c) whether Government have been paying huge sums to Governments of Assam and Bihar for reconstruction of forest corridors and other works under the 'Project Elephant'; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken to prevent such elimination of the endangered majestic animal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has seen the newspaper report of Hindustan Times of 23rd January, 1997. The State Chief Wild Life Wardens are authorised to permit hunting of any wild animal specified in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, which includes wild elephant which has become dangerous to human life, under the provisions of Section 11 of the said Act. The State Governments have engaged hunters for this purpose.

(c) Restoration of forest corridors, wherever feasible is one of the items of works for which the Government of India provides financial support to the Governments of elephant range states in India. Between 1991-92 and 1995-96 the Governments of Assam and Bihar have been sanctioned a total financial assistance of Rs. 1.30 crores and Rs. 68.25 lakhs respectively under Project Elephant, which included Rs. 10.50 lakhs and Rs. 50,000 for survey, mapping and demarcation of corridors and elephant habitats.

(d) To preserve the majestic animal, the elephant have been provided with the maximum possible protection under existing laws by placing it in the Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. In order to discourage poaching of tuskers a ban has been placed on the trade in ivory. For international control, the elephant has been included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), which prohibits international trade among the signatory countries in ivory. In order to strengthen the protection of elephant populations and their natural habitats in India, the Government of India has launched Project Elephant in 1991-92 to provide assistance to the elephant range states.

**Seminar on cruelty to Animals**

44. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some seminar-training camp on cruelty to animals was organised at Bhubaneshwar in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof with suggestions given;

(c) whether slaughtering of cows and buffaloes numbring two to three lakhs has been reported every year in some States and Union Territories;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State and Union Territory-wise;

(e) whether Government propose to take some measures to ban such slaughters to improve the economy of States and Union Territories; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.